

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Duane Ankney, on January 19, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)  
Sen. Pat Connell, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)  
Sen. Sue Malek (D)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Keith Regier (R)  
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)  
Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jason D. Small (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary  
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 36, 1/12/2017; SB 12, 1/12/2017; SB 11, 1/12/2017

Executive Action: SB 101, Do Pass; SB 36, Do Pass; SB 11, Do Pass; SB 32, Do Pass; SB 7, Do Pass; SJ 2, Do Pass

00:00:56 Vice Chair Connell assumed the role as chair.

**HEARING ON SB 36**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:55 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SB 36, Eliminate the electrical licensing exemption for grid-tied generation.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:04:52 Keith Allen, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 233

00:06:32 Adam Haight, Northern Plains Resource Council

00:06:52 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest

00:07:14 JD Lynch, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 44

00:07:33 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy

00:08:01 Margaret Morgan, Independent Electrical Contractors

00:08:37 Greg Dorrington, Montana Dakota Utilities

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:09:26 Sen. Ankney

00:10:22 Sen. Ankney resumed the role as chair.

**HEARING ON SB 12**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:10:41 Sen. Pat Connell (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 12, Update the PSC's role in reviewing net metering standards.

**EXHIBIT**(ens14a01)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:16:43 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest

00:17:32 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy

00:18:00 Greg Dorrington, Montana Dakota Utilities

00:18:46 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association

00:21:17 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:21:48 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center

**Informational Testimony:**

00:23:17 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:23:54 Sen. Barrett  
00:27:01 Sen. Connell  
00:27:20 Sen. Kary  
00:29:17 Mr. Rosquist, PSC  
00:30:31 Sen. Malek  
00:31:23 Sen. Connell  
00:33:01 Sen. Malek  
00:33:27 Mr. Rosquist

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:35:47 Sen. Connell

**HEARING ON SB 11**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:36:35 Sen. Pat Connell (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 11, Require PSC review of net metering interconnection.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:40:08 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperative Association  
00:40:32 JD Lynch, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 44  
00:40:58 Adam Haight, Northern Plains Resource Council  
00:41:18 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union  
00:41:48 Greg Dorrington, Montana Dakota Utilities  
00:42:40 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest  
00:43:11 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association  
00:43:56 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy  
00:44:14 Tucker Finley, Montana Public Interest Research Group  
00:44:36 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:45:17 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:45:37 Sen. Kary  
00:46:20 Mr. Rosquist, PSC  
00:49:25 Sen. Kary

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:49:58 Sen. Connell  
00:50:41 Chair Ankney

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 101**

00:53:36 Chair Ankney  
00:54:02 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Connell moved that **SB 101 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Small voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 36**

00:55:21 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Connell moved that **SB 36 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Small voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 11**

00:56:48 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **SB 11 DO PASS**.

**Discussion:**

00:57:02 Sen. Malek  
00:57:20 Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Services Division  
00:57:39 **Vote:** Motion carried 12-0 by roll call vote. Sen. Small was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 32**

00:58:47 **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **SB 32 DO PASS**.

**Discussion:**

00:58:58 Sen. Barrett  
01:00:34 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Barrett, Sen. Malek, Sen. McNally, Sen. Vuckovich and Sen. Wolken voting no. Sen. Small was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 7**

01:01:45     **Motion:** Sen. Connell moved that **SB 7 DO PASS**.

**Discussion:**

01:02:05     Sen. Malek  
01:04:13     Sen. Barrett  
01:06:11     Sen. McNally  
01:11:32     Sen. Connell  
01:11:54     Sen. McNally

01:12:07     **Vote:** Motion carried 8-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Barrett, Sen. Malek, Sen. McNally, Sen. Vuckovich and Sen. Wolken voting no. Sen. Small voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 2**

01:13:17     **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Connell moved that **SJ 2 DO PASS**. Motion carried 12-0 by roll call vote. Sen. Small was excused.

01:14:33     Chair Ankney

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:40 PM

---

Charlene Devine, Secretary

cd

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([ens14aad.pdf](#))